



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 21, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

by

Kalbert K. Young

Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2530 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH and University) is supportive of HB 2530 HD1 which would remove a statutory limit of an annual cap of \$3 million that the UH may provide to the University Foundation (UHF) from the UH tuition and fees special fund. The University does not represent that eliminating the statutory amount would necessarily result in paying more funds to the UHF. Rather, the University prefers the ability to assess and determine how University funds could be effectively leveraged to generate revenue and thereby contributing to more services for the University, students, faculty, and programs.

The UH currently does provide \$3 million annually to the UHF to pay for some of the operational expenses needed by UHF to generate philanthropic donations which returns to the University. In this way, the University views UHF's role as a major community partner that helps raise funds for University programs. The UHF also generates a major portion of its operating budget from its own philanthropic activities as well.

The University would like to be able to support the UHF so that they can, in turn, be more productive in their philanthropic efforts. The University manages its limited resources and funds prudently. Being able to provide additional funding to UHF if that funding can result in greater return of funds on our investment, can be a very prudent approach.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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contact@UHalumni.org

2440 Campus Road, Unit 307

Honolulu, HI 96822-2234

808-956-2586/1-877-UH-ALUMS

February 20, 2020

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Friday, February 21, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

HB 2530 HD1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee members;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in support of HB 2530 HD1**. My name is Jill Hasegawa, a proud alumna of the University of Hawai'i (UH) and Board President of the University of Hawai'i Alumni Association (UHAA). UHAA represents the more than 300,000 alumni graduating from all UH campuses statewide. The education and experiences gained at UH are integral to our success, and for many of us, attending UH is a family tradition.

HB 2530 HD1 repeals the existing \$3 million cap on what UH may expend from the Tuition Special Fund for fundraising and alumni relations services provided by the UH Foundation (UHF). For so many of our UH alumni, having affordable and quality higher educational options right here at home is essential. Many of our promising local students need scholarships to attend college, and scholarships are essential to keeping the best and brightest students here. UHF works with donors to raise funds for scholarships, programs and research on all ten UH campuses, impacting students and families statewide. Just as our families need UH, our economy needs a skilled, local workforce to grow!

UHF's alumni programming also directly benefits our community. The alumni program is focused on providing lifelong value to our alumni, while also advancing UH's priorities including growing student enrollment and supporting student retention. By partnering closely with UH campus leadership, schools and departments, and local and regional alumni groups, the UHF team develops meaningful programs that mobilize our alumni community, build pride, nurture life-long learning and strengthen and sustain relationships.

Repealing the existing \$3 million cap will give UH the flexibility, based on its evolving needs, to determine what resources to provide the UH Foundation for fundraising and alumni relations services.

We urge you to support HB 2530 HD1.

Mahalo,

Jill M. Hasegawa, JD '04

President